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Haverhill Urban District

in the

Administrative County of West Suffolk

*

Annual Report

of the

Medical Officer of Health

for the year

1953

To the Chairman and Members
of the
Haverhill Urban District Council

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit for your consideration the Report on the Health and Sanitary Circumstances of the Haverhill Urban District for the Year 1953.

The population of Haverhill again shows the customary small but steady increase.

The Vital Statistics are satisfactory and the birth and death rates do not differ markedly from the national ones but both are lower than those for the previous year.

Apart from a sharp epidemic of Measles there were extremely few cases of notifiable diseases and no deaths resulted therefrom.

No remark is called for in respect of the Tuberculosis position.

During the year special consideration was given to the clean handling of meat and other foodstuffs and the nucleus of a clean food guild was formed.

The quality of the sewage works effluent also received a great deal of attention and it was noted that the plant was working to capacity.

I wish to express my gratitude to the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee for their co-operation and encouragement during the year. My sincere thanks are due, too, to Mr. W. C. Blake, the Clerk of the Council, and to Mr. P. T. Rake, the Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector.

I have the honour to be, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

G. P. BARCLAY,
Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION A.

GENERAL STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

| | |
|--|-------------|
| Area of the District | 2,530 acres |
| Rateable Value | £20,734 |
| Sum represented by a Penny Rate | £79 10s. |
| Rates | 21s. |

(County Rate 13s., U.D.C. Rate 6s. 10d.)

| | |
|-----------------------------------|-------|
| Number of inhabited houses | 1,549 |
| Estimated population | 4,150 |
| Census 1951 | 4,096 |

The industrial activities of the town are varied and comprise the manufacture of ready-made clothing, gloves, mats and textile fabrics. The manufacture of tooth and other brushes also provides occupation for large numbers. Electrical plant is manufactured and other factories produce steam ploughing and harvesting machinery, plant for sharpening lawn mowers and repairs to harvesting machinery. Rope, tarpaulins and marquees are also manufactured.

There are no industries or occupations that are likely to have a prejudicial effect upon the health of the employees or that of the general public. The town is a centre for the surrounding villages and a market is held weekly.

SECTION B.

EXTRACT FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR.

(Figures in brackets refer to the previous year).

Live Births :

| | Male | Female | Total |
|--|---------|---------|---------|
| Legitimate | (33) 25 | (26) 24 | (59) 49 |
| Illegitimate | (1) 0 | (1) 2 | (2) 2 |
| Totals | (34) 25 | (27) 26 | (61) 51 |
| Crude Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated population | | (14.9) | 12.9 |
| Adjusted Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated resident population | | (16.4) | 13.5 |
| Birth Rate per 1,000 population (England and Wales) | | (15.3) | 15.5 |
| Proportion of illegitimate births to legitimate live births | | (3.2%) | 4.0% |

Still Births :

| | | | | | Male | Female | Total |
|--------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|--------|-------|
| Legitimate | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | — | 1 |
| Illegitimate | ... | ... | ... | ... | — | — | — |

Deaths :

| | Total | Male | Female | |
|---|---------|---------|---------|-------------|
| | (80) 58 | (36) 29 | (44) 29 | |
| Crude Death Rate per 1,000 estimated resident population | ... | ... | ... | (19.5) 13.9 |
| Adjusted Death Rate per 1,000 estimated resident population | ... | ... | ... | (15.0) 10.7 |
| Death Rate per 1,000 population (England & Wales) | | | | (11.3) 11.4 |
| Deaths resulting from Pregnancy, Childbirth and Abortion | | | | Nil |

Number of deaths of infants under one year of age :

| | | | | | Total | Male | Female |
|--------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-------|-------|--------|
| Legitimate | ... | ... | ... | ... | (3) 1 | (2) 1 | (1) 0 |
| Illegitimate | ... | ... | ... | ... | — | — | — |
| Totals | ... | | | | (3) 1 | (2) 1 | (1) 0 |

Death Rate of infants under one year of age :

| | | | | |
|---|-----|-----|-----|---------------------------------|
| All infants per 1,000 live births | ... | ... | ... | (49.8) 25.5 |
| Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births | | | | (50.8) 25.5 |
| " " " " " " " | | | | (England and Wales) (27.6) 26.8 |

CAUSES OF DEATH AT ALL AGES

| Disease | | | Male | | Female | | Total |
|--------------------------------|-----|-----|---------|-----|---------|-----|---------|
| Cancer (all types) | ... | ... | (5) 5 | ... | (6) 6 | ... | (11) 11 |
| Diabetes | ... | ... | (1) 0 | ... | (1) 1 | ... | (2) 1 |
| Vascular Lesions | | | | | | | |
| of the nervous system | | | (4) 3 | ... | (7) 4 | ... | (11) 7 |
| Heart Diseases | .. | ... | (14) 9 | ... | (16) 8 | ... | (30) 17 |
| Pneumonia | ... | ... | (2) 1 | ... | (5) 2 | ... | (7) 3 |
| Bronchitis | ... | ... | (0) 1 | ... | (0) 1 | ... | (0) 2 |
| Influenza | ... | ... | (0) 2 | ... | (0) 0 | ... | (0) 2 |
| Ulcer of stomach & deudenum | | | (0) 1 | .. | (0) 0 | ... | (0) 1 |
| Motor vehicle accidents | ... | ... | (0) 0 | ... | (0) 0 | ... | (0) 0 |
| Other Accidents . | ... | ... | (1) 1 | ... | (0) 0 | ... | (1) 1 |
| Suicide | ... | ... | (0) 1 | ... | (1) 3 | ... | (1) 4 |
| Other and ill-defined diseases | | | (0) 5 | ... | (17) 5 | ... | (17) 10 |
| Total | ... | | (36) 29 | | (44) 29 | | (80) 58 |

Birth and Death Rates for the last ten years as compared with 1953 :

| | 1943 | -44 | -45 | -46 | -47 | -48 | -49 | -50 | -51 | -52 | -53 |
|-------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Birth Rates | 15.6 | 19.8 | 16.5 | 16.8 | 21.9 | 15.5 | 15.2 | 15.8 | 12.7 | 14.9 | 12.9 |
| Death Rates | 13.8 | 14.9 | 15.1 | 13.9 | 17.5 | 12.5 | 13.7 | 16.8 | 14.6 | 19.5 | 13.9 |

SECTION C.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

There are no alterations to report in any of the general arrangements.

Public Health Officers of the Authority :

- (a) Dr. G. P. Barclay, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H., whole time Medical Officer of Health (is also M.O.H. to several other local authorities).
- (b) Mr. P. T. Rake, M.B.E., A.M.I.Mun.E., M.R.San.I., Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector.
- (c) Mr. K. W. Skeates, M.R. San.I., Asst. Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector.

Hospitals :

There are no Hospitals within the area.

Ambulance facilities :

The West Suffolk County Council are responsible for the ambulance services.

Nursing in the Home :

District Nurses are available for nursing and midwifery duties

Infant Welfare :

A welfare clinic is held weekly on Fridays and is provided by the West Suffolk County Council.

SECTION D.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water Supply :

The Waterworks are situated in Camps Road on the West side of the Town, the floor level of the Pump House is 279.50 feet above O.D. The supply is obtained from below the chalk stratum and consists of a well 7 feet in diameter, 103 feet deep, with two headings each 25 feet long running North and South; there are 3 boreholes, one 9 inch diameter at the bottom of the well to a

depth of 250 feet from surface level, one through the South heading 10 $\frac{1}{8}$ inch diameter and another 18 inch diameter through the North heading to a depth of 350 feet and 360 feet respectively from surface level.

A test pump when the 18 inch bore was sunk in 1944 showed an ample yield of water up to 26,500 gallons per hour from a depth of 150 feet below the surface level.

Pumping Machinery :

The water is raised from the well by three throw pumps in duplicate (suction levels 100 feet below surface level) and from one of the boreholes by a reciprocating type borehole pump (suction level 175 feet below surface level); each delivering 10,000 gallons per hour. Power is obtained from 24 B.H.P. Crossley Diesel Oil Engines in duplicate.

In 1951 a vertical spindle centrifugal pump was installed in the other borehole—this raises approximately 15,000 galls. an hour and is powered by a 37 h.p. electric motor.

All water is chlorinated either by liquid or gaseous chlorine.

Water from the pumps is conveyed to a 150,000 galls. reservoir with a top water level of 350 ft. above O.D. This reservoir is not sufficiently elevated to supply possible future development on high ground, and the storage (one day's supply) is inadequate, and elevated and increased storage will have to be provided at some time in the future.

Number of Dwelling Houses Connected with Mains :

| | | | | |
|----------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----------------------|
| (a) Within the U.D.C. area | .. | ... | ... | 1548 |
| (b) Outside the area.. | ... | ... | ... | 19 |
| Length of mains | ... | ... | ... | 8 $\frac{3}{4}$ miles |

Number of houses not connected to mains :

| | | | | |
|----------------------|-----|-----|-----|---|
| (a) Within reach | ... | ... | ... | — |
| (b) Not within reach | ... | ... | ... | 8 |

| | | | | |
|--|-----|-----|-----|----|
| The proportion of houses supplied by standpipes (all within the curtilage of the houses) | ... | ... | ... | 5% |
|--|-----|-----|-----|----|

Purity of the Water :

Frequent samples are sent for bacteriological examinations. There has been no variation from the standard type of report reproduced here.

The water shows no tendency to plumbo-solvency.

The following is a copy of a Bacteriological Examination of a sample of water taken by the :

Counties Public Health Laboratories,
66, Victoria Street, London, S.W.1

Number of Colonies developing on

| Agar per c.c. or ml. in | ... 1 day at 37° C. | 2 days at 37° C. | 3 days at 20° C. |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| | 0 | 0 | 5 |
| Presumptive Coliform Reaction | Present in - Absent from 100 ml. | | |
| Bact. coli | Present in - Absent from 100 ml. | | |
| Cl. welchii Reaction | Present in - Absent from 100 ml. | | |

This sample is practically clear and bright in appearance neutral in reaction and free from metals apart from a negligible trace of iron. The water carries no excess of mineral constituents in solution but is extremely hard in character. The hardness is not such as to render the supply unwholesome, but it will make it disadvantageous for laundry and similar use. The water is of the highest standard of organic and bacterial purity.

Apart from the objectionable hardness the water is considered pure and wholesome in character and suitable for drinking and domestic purposes.

(signed) GORDON MILES.

For the Counties Public Health Laboratories

The chemical examination showed little variation from previous analyses.

The water is chlorinated.

Water Charges :

The charges for water are 1/5d. per 1,000 gallons with reductions for bulk supplies.

1/8d. in the £ on rateable value with a minimum charge of 10/- p.a.

The following show the variations of rest level of the water in the wells 1949 to 1953 inclusive :—

| | | |
|------|----------------------------------|----------------------|
| 1949 | { Maximum level, March | 200.55ft. above O.D. |
| | { Minimum level, October | 193.75ft. " " |
| 1950 | { Maximum level, March | 200.50ft. " " |
| | { Minimum level, November | 193.65ft. " " |
| 1951 | { Maximum level, May | 208.75ft. " " |
| | { Minimum level, January... .. | 197.00ft. " " |
| 1952 | { Maximum level, April | 204.34ft. " " |
| | { Minimum level, October... .. | 195.50ft. " " |
| 1953 | { Maximum level, March | 203.40ft. " " |
| | { Minimum level, January | 195.60ft. " " |

The average daily consumption of water per head was 38 galls.

Rainfall as registered by the rain gauge at the Water-works during the last five years as compared with 1953 :—

| | 1953 | 1952 | 1951 | 1950 | 1949 | 1948 |
|--------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| JAN. | 0.97 | 1.90 | 2.07 | 1.38 | 0.81 | 3.64 |
| FEB. | 1.39 | 0.88 | 3.53 | 3.49 | 1.11 | 0.91 |
| MAR. | 0.50 | 2.80 | 3.30 | 0.45 | 0.75 | 0.90 |
| APRIL | 1.94 | 1.19 | 3.07 | 1.73 | 1.44 | 1.80 |
| MAY | 1.79 | 0.94 | 2.51 | 2.07 | 2.76 | 3.00 |
| JUNE | 2.75 | 1.47 | 1.57 | 1.05 | 0.82 | 2.89 |
| JULY | 2.11 | 0.88 | 0.98 | 3.07 | 0.91 | 2.00 |
| AUG. | 1.90 | 3.14 | 2.88 | 1.70 | 1.39 | 4.01 |
| SEPT. | 1.55 | 2.46 | 2.78 | 3.02 | 0.51 | 1.27 |
| OCT. | 2.87 | 2.05 | 1.08 | 0.57 | 4.64 | 1.62 |
| NOV. | 1.13 | 3.79 | 3.87 | 4.07 | 1.72 | 1.69 |
| DEC. | 0.81 | 2.36 | 1.56 | 1.37 | 1.70 | 1.50 |
| Totals | 19.71 | 23.86 | 29.20 | 23.97 | 18.56 | 25.23 |

Snow or rain was recorded on 137 days. The greatest rainfall was for 24 hours ending 9 a.m. June 12th; when 0.85 inch was recorded. The total rainfall for the year was 19.71 inches.

Open-Air Swimming Bath :

This was constructed in 1930, is well situated in the centre of the Town, the dimensions are 75ft. x 30ft. with a maximum depth of 7ft. 6ins. In 1938 a Filtration and Chlorination plant was installed which has worked very efficiently.

The charges are 12/- for Adult Season ticket and 6/- for Juniors, 9d. for Adults and 4d. for Juniors admission. 36 Adult and 115 Junior Season tickets were sold. In addition 1,718 Adults and 2,407 Juniors paid for admission.

Morning periods are reserved for use of Schools during the Summer term.

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal :

The Sewage Disposal Works are situated on the east side of the Town. The sewage gravitates to the Works through an 18-inch outfall sewer. The system is partially separate. All but a few outlying houses are within reach of the sewers.

The Disposal Works consist of screening, detritus, storm water, two collecting and two settling tanks, and two percolating filters, with final treatment on 7 acres of land, all underdrained; three acres are terraced.

The Pumping Plant consists of Diesel Oil Engines and centrifugal pumps in duplicate.

The effluent discharges into a small stream which is a tributary of the River Stour :

| | |
|--|------|
| Number of dwelling houses connected with sewers ... | 1495 |
| Number of dwelling houses not connected with sewers... | 53 |
| (None of which is within reach of the sewers). | |

House Scavenging :

Collections are made weekly from about 1575 premises and the refuse is disposed of by controlled tipping in a disused pit.

The provision of sanitary dustbins was made compulsory in 1938.

SANITARY INSPECTIONS OF THE AREA

| | |
|---|----|
| Number of Inspections | 46 |
| Number of Statutory Notices served | 0 |
| Number of Informal Notices served... .. | 16 |

Housing :

During the year 6 3-bedroom houses, 17 2-bedroom houses, 4 2-bedroom bungalows, and 8 2-bedroom flats were completed on the Parkway Estate.

A further 24 3-bedroom houses, 31 2-bedroom houses, and 8 2-bedroom flats were under construction at Parkway Estate. The Council now own :—

| |
|---|
| 279 3-bedroom houses |
| 25 2-bedroom houses |
| 16 2-bedroom bungalows |
| 16 1-bedroom bungalows |
| 8 2-bedroom flats |
| 16 Duplex flats |
| 10 pre-fabricated 2-bedroom bungalows |
| 11 Army huts converted into 2-bedroom dwellings |
| 11 other houses purchased by the Council |

Total 392

SECTION E.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

The number of notifications received during the last ten years as compared with 1953 is shown in the following table:—

TABLE I.

| | | .43 | .44 | .45 | .46 | .47 | .48 | .49 | .50 | .51 | .52 | .53 |
|--------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Diphtheria | ... | — | — | 2 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Scarlet Fever | ... | 1 | 1 | 10 | 3 | — | — | — | 4 | 4 | 4 | 1 |
| Erysipelas | ... | — | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | — | — | — |
| Puerperal pyrexia | | 1 | — | — | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Ophthalmia neonatorum | | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Measles... | ... | 42 | — | 2 | 11 | 1 | 251 | — | — | 31 | 7 | 136 |
| Whooping cough | | 18 | — | — | 4 | 1 | 5 | 3 | 44 | 13 | — | 1 |
| Pneumonia | ... | — | 7 | — | 1 | — | — | — | 1 | 1 | 1 | — |
| Totals | ... | 65 | 9 | 12 | 20 | 2 | 256 | 4 | 49 | 49 | 12 | 138 |

No deaths resulted from Diphtheria, Scarlet Fever, Measles or Whooping Cough. Influenza was the cause of two deaths.

ANALYSIS OF NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

| Age in Years | Scarlet Fever | | Whooping Cough | | Measles | | Pneumonia | |
|--------------|---------------|---|----------------|---|---------|----|-----------|---|
| | M | F | M | F | M | F | M | F |
| Under 1 | | | | | | 1 | | |
| 1—2 | | 1 | | | 10 | 6 | | |
| 3—4 | | | 1 | | 27 | 15 | | |
| 5—9 | 1 | 1 | | | 36 | 32 | | |
| 10—14 | | 1 | | | | 2 | | |
| 15—24 | | | | | | 2 | | |
| 25 + | | | | | | | | 1 |
| Unknown | | | | | | | | |
| TOTALS .. | 1 | 3 | 1 | | 73 | 58 | | 1 |

SECTION G. TUBERCULOSIS

| | Pulmonary | | | Non-Pulmonary | | | Total all types |
|---|-----------|---|-------|---------------|---|-------|-----------------|
| | M | F | Total | M | F | Total | |
| No. of cases on register at commencement of year .. | 9 | 5 | 14 | 3 | 1 | 4 | 18 |
| No. of cases added during the year | — | — | — | — | 1 | — | — |
| No. of cases removed during year | 1 | 1 | 2 | — | — | — | 2 |
| No. remaining on register at end of year | 8 | 4 | 12 | 3 | 1 | 4 | 16 |

The reason for one removal from register was death, second was recovery.

No action has been called for under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, or under Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

SECTION H.

Prescribed particulars on the administration of the Factories Act, 1937.

PART I. OF THE ACT.

1.—*Inspections* for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors).

| Premises (1) | M/c line No. (2) | Number on Register (3) | Number of | | | M/c line No. (7) |
|--|---------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------|
| | | | Inspections (4) | Written notices (5) | Occupiers prosecuted (6) | |
| (i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities | 1 | 11 | | | | 1 |
| (ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority | 2 | 36 | 4 | | | 2 |
| (iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises) | 3 | 3 | | | | 3 |
| TOTAL | | 50 | 4 | | | |

2.—Cases in which *Defects* were found.

(If defects are discovered at the premises on two, three or more separate occasions they should be reckoned as two, three or more "cases").

| Particulars (1) | M/c line No. (2) | Number of cases in which defects were found | | | Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (7) | M/c line No. (8) |
|---|---------------------------|---|-----------------|---|---|---------------------------|
| | | Found (3) | Remedied (4) | Referred To H.M. Inspector (5) | By H.M. Inspector (6) | |
| Want of cleanliness (S.1) | 4 | | | | | 4 |
| Overcrowding (S.2) | 5 | | | | | 5 |
| Unreasonable temperature (S.3) | 6 | | | | | 6 |
| Inadequate ventilation (S.4) | 7 | | | | | 7 |
| Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6) | 8 | | | | | 8 |
| Sanitary Conveniences (S.7) | 9 | | | | | 9 |
| (a) insufficient | 10 | 2 | | | | 10 |
| (b) Unsuitable or defective | 11 | | 2 | | | 11 |
| (c) Not separate for sexes | 12 | | | | | 12 |
| Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork) | | | | | | |
| TOTAL | | 2 | 2 | | | |

Sections 110 and 111.

Outwork :

60 persons are recorded as doing out work. All are employed in the making of wearing apparel. No action was necessary under either section during the year.

SECTION I.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948.

Section 47.—Removal to suitable premises of persons in need of care and attention.

No case arose during the year calling for action in accordance with this Section of the Act.

G. P. BARCLAY, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health.

